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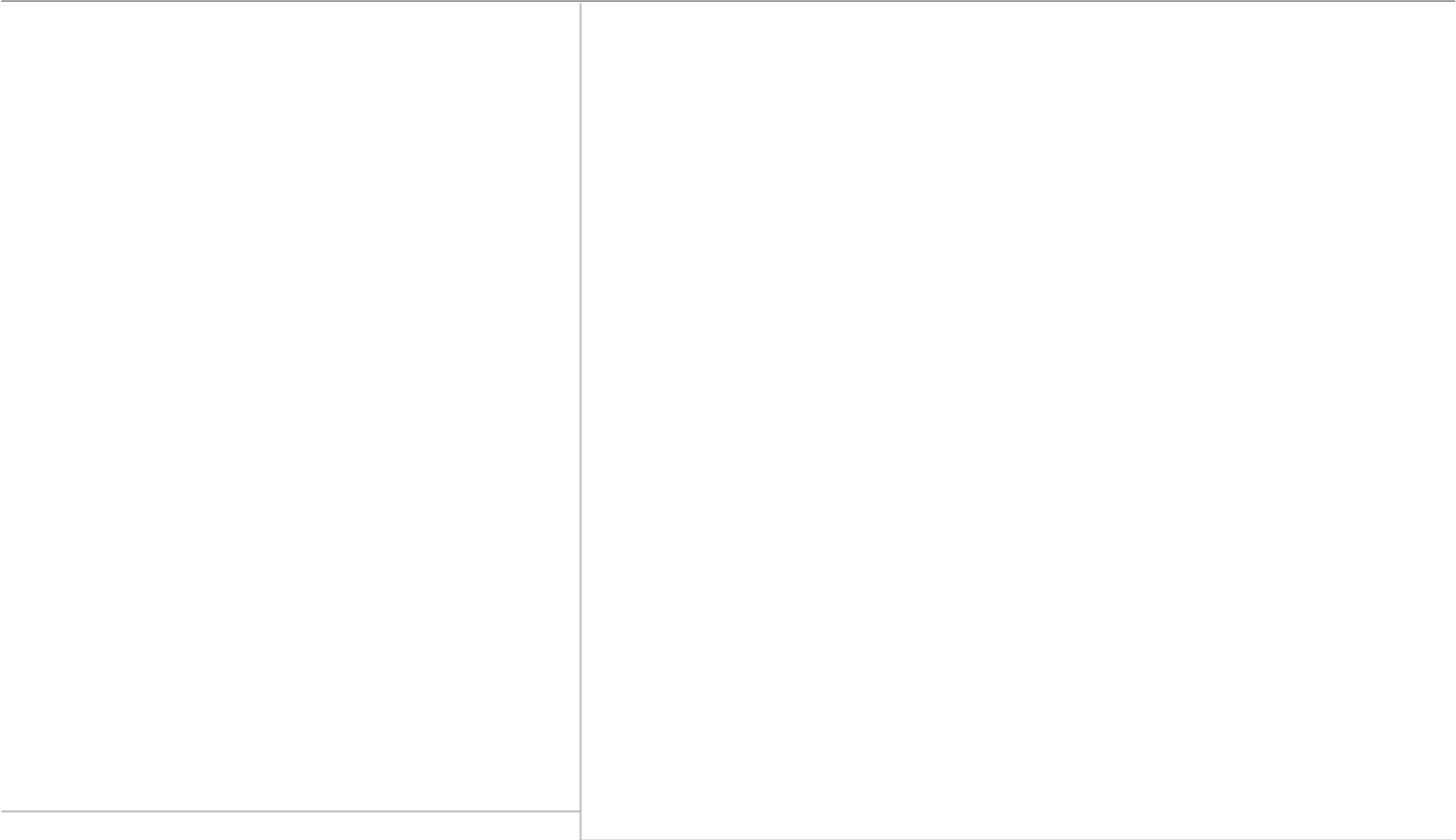
Lake Forest College Stentor, February 5, 2004

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Presidential Candidate Visits Campus

“Presidential Candidate Visits Campus”
“Brown Shares Socialist Views During Visit To Campus”
Ben Reiss
Business Manager

U.S. Navy veteran and former Oregon State Senator Walter F. Brown is trying to do the unimaginable: become the 44th President of the United States of America as a member of the Socialist Party.

Last Thursday, Brown, a 77-year-old Oregon resident, visited Lake Forest College while campaigning across the country in an attempt to be elected to the highest office in the country.

While Brown recognizes that his chances of winning the presidential election are slim, he continues to campaign because, “in a democracy people should have choices.” He does not support either of the two major political parties in this county, which he calls “republican heavy” and “republican light,” and wants to provide an alternative.

“Anyone who votes for the Republican or Democratic candidate is contributing to the economic demise of this country,” Brown boldly stated. He believes that these two political parties are destroying America. “Both these parties are going to run [the United States] into the ground.”

Brown supports neither President Bush nor former President Clinton. He believes that Clinton “undermined national health care” and that Bush “has no real commitment to democracy – he has commitment to oil and capital punishment, he has commitment to the Republican Party, not democracy.”

In an exclusive interview with Brown, he outlined three main socialist ideals that he feels could improve the United States: political democracy, economic democracy, and social democracy.

Political democracy allows anyone to vote and to run for political office. Brown argues that often it is too difficult to get your name on a ballot for an elec-

tion. In Illinois, 25,000 signatures are required to be on the presidential ballot and because of this Brown will not be on the ballot. But in many other states he will appear on the ballot.

Economic democracy, at the forefront of socialist beliefs, supports institutions such as: national healthcare, public utilities, credit unions, and social security. Socialists believe that the government can be more efficient at providing these services to Americans.

Social democracy is the freedom to live your life the way you want. Brown believes that there should be “no discrimination because of race, color, or creed.” While Brown is pro-life, he “struggles to allow women and men to have full freedom to control their own bodies and to determine their own sexual orientation.”

In the past, Brown supported the first bill to ban Chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs, a chemical believed to deplete the Ozone layer. Brown also wants to implement a public health care

STENTOR

INSIDE

NEWS

■

FEATURES

■

OPINIONS

■ Dane:

SPORTS

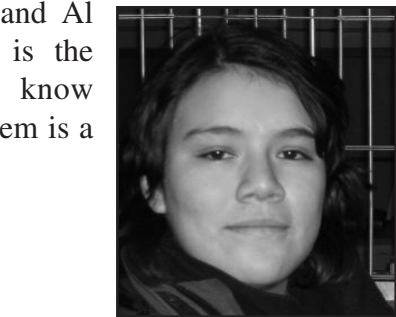
■ Joltin’ Joe:

The Stentor Asked Students:

Who do you think will win the Democratic primary, and will that affect your vote for President?

“I really like Dean and Al Sharpton, Al Sharpton is the man! I don’t really know though, the primary system is a flawed system...”

Britini Rios ’06



“From what I’ve heard [people] don’t care who the Democratic candidate is because they want to get that ‘nut’ out of office.”

Syed Karim ’05



“Kerry, simply because I haven’t been following it [the primary] and he is the only one I’ve heard of.”

Robert McMahon ’06



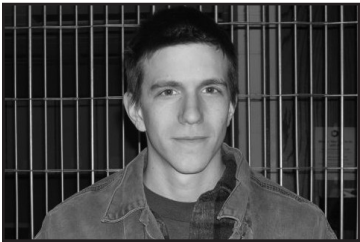
“I would never vote for a Democrat, ever, except for Zell Miller, but he is retiring.”

Matt Blumenfeld ’07



“I have no idea.”

D’Ann Dalros ’06



“I would pick John Kerry. I’m voting for ‘not Bush.’”

Dan Oliver ’04

“If it is anybody else like Dean, or God forbid Al Sharpton, I would have second thoughts and would probably abstain.”

James Herold ’06



“I think Dean [will win]. The primary has a lot to do with my choice... but some people take politics more seriously than I do...so I might just go with the majority.”

Rich Lopez ’07



“Well, I hope Howard Dean wins, but I think John Kerry is going to win. The Democratic Party can put up Mickey Mouse and I’d still vote for Mickey Mouse.”

Anita Birse ’04

STENTOR

Shuttle Bus To Run From Lake Forest To Chicago Soon

Daniel Kolen Features Editor

Busses will finally run from Lake Forest College campus into the city, but the exact date is unknown.

“It’s a great step forward for lake Forest students to get down to Chicago,” Steve Mencarini, Assistant Director of Leadership and Community Involvement (LCI) said.

The plan will provide service six out of the seven days of the week to the Highland Park Metra Station, Linden CTA station, and DePaul University at Lincoln Park Campus between the hours of 7:15 am and 10:45 pm.

The only thing holding back the shuttle from starting is getting the insurance plan for the bus system to cover both Barat

College/ DePaul University students and Lake Forest College students.

“The purpose of the shuttle is to get students to use Chicago as a resource,” Mencarini said. “It’s not to be used as a means to pick students up at 2 am from the bar scene.”

Freshmen Diane Reynolds was quoted last semester expressing the wish that the school would have a bus to bring students. In hearing of the new news Reynolds said, “That’s great. I’m glad to hear the school is finally doing something like this.”

This semester is the “test semester,” and if it doesn’t get used it won’t be in service next year.

Mencarini said, “We’re gonna take our plan one semester at a time.”

Amy Dickinson In Lake Forest

Who: Amy Dickinson, the nationally-syndicated advice columnist for the *Chicago Tribune*.

What: An opportunity to hear and ask questions of Chicago’s new replacement for Ann Landers. Amy has contributed to NPR Radio, Esquire, O, Allure, CBS Sunday Morning, Time, America Online News Channel; worked as an NBC News Producer, substitute teacher and nightclub lounge singer; taught Sunday school for 10 years; the single parent of a teenaged daughter; and is a distant relative of Emily Dickinson.



Where: First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary
700 North Sheridan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045

When: Sunday, February 8th @ 7:00 p.m.
It’s Free!!

Call First Presbyterian Church (847) 234-6250 for additional information

V-Day: Until the Violence Stops

Press Release

In an effort to raise awareness and end violence against women, Lake Forest College students will present benefit performances of “The Vagina Monologues” on Thursday, February 12 at 8 p.m., and Saturday, February 14 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. The performances will take place in McCormick Auditorium, located in the Johnson Science Center on the College’s Middle Campus. For more information please contact 847-735-6235.

“The Vagina Monologues,” written by Eve Ensler, has received wide acclaim. As part of a global V-Day campaign, Ensler has given the rights to any college or university to produce benefit performances of “The Vagina Monologues” to raise awareness and funds for anti-vio-

lence groups within their own communities. V-Day itself stages large-scale benefits and promotes innovative gatherings and programs to change social attitudes towards violence against women. In 2003, more than 1,000 V-Day benefit events were presented by local volunteer activists around the world, educating millions of people about the reality of violence against women and girls.

Proceeds from the performances at Lake Forest College will benefit LaCasa, the Lake County Council Against Sexual Assault based in Gurnee, Illinois. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for Lake Forest College students, faculty, and staff with ID. Contact Shannon McKenzie at mckenzie@lakeforest.edu or 847-735-6235 for ticket information.



Crime Watch

1/14/04

* Reported theft from a students’ room on south campus (students door was unlocked).

1/15/04

* Officer responded to a vandalism call on the third floor of Deerpath hall. The offenders were not identified.

1/16/04

* Officer responded to a noise complaint on south campus, multiple notices of violation were issued [to students] for noise and alcohol in a substance free hall.

1/17/04

* Officer responded to a non-student injured at the hockey game, subject was transported to the ER.

* Multiple students were issued notices for violations of the drug and alcohol policy.

* Officers discovered vandalism in a middle campus residence hall. An unidentified subject kicked a hole in the wall.

* While patrolling south campus an officer discovered a back entrance door to one of the residence halls had been kicked from the outside. Officer assumed that an unknown subject must have been trying to gain entry to the dorm.

1/21/04

* Student reported having received several prank phone calls, no suspects at this point, investigation is still open.

1/24/04

* Student on south campus was caught littering from dorm window. Student was issued a notice of violation for disorderly conduct and throwing projectiles.

* Student called in a complaint of a harassing stranger in a dorm on middle campus officer responded and the Lake Forest Police arrested the trespasser.

1/25/04

* Officer responded to seeing a fire on middle campus. Once the officer put out the fire he interviewed one suspect, but no positive identification was made.

* Officer reported vandalism to the side door of one of the south campus residence halls. The offenders were not identified.

Webpage Designer Needed!

The Stentor is looking for someone to redesign its website and keep it updated with recent stories. If you are interested, send an e-mail to news@lfc.edu

Lyric Dreams Come To Life For Singer/Songwriter

Critically acclaimed singer/songerwriter Deidre McCalla will be at the coffeehouse at 8 pm on Februrary 10th.

Deidre McCalla’s CDs and Performances:

Alexandra Diaz
Senior Staff Writer

McCalla has three CDs you can order online with one album only available on cassette that is unavailable unless you contact McCalla.

“Everyday Heroes and Heroines”

Released onto CD on September 13, 1993, this is McCalla’s first recording that is still selling copies. It has 10 tracks and sells for \$15.98 on Amazon.com.

“With a Little Luck”

Released onto CD only five days later on September 18th, 1993, this recording has nine tracks and also sells for \$15.98 on Amazon.com.

“Playing for Keeps”

Just recently released, this is the album that has been recieving critical acclaim as of late. It is selling for \$16.98.

“Don’t Doubt It”

This album is only available on audio cassette and can only be ordered directly from McCalla. It has ten tracks.

It is difficult for many to say they truly love their professions in an age where many are caught up in the race to climb the job ladder. On February 10, however, Lake Forest students will get to meet someone who sees “no distinction between work and play.”

“It is great waking up every morning, and feeling happy,” Deidre McCalla—critically acclaimed singer/song-writer said.

The love for her profession is reflected in her music. McCalla’s music—a blend of country and folk—draws from an era where Motown was big and the civil rights movement was causing an uproar. Her songs often reflect issues that get under her skin and need to be resolved through the course of the song.

McCalla wishes her lyrics and instrumentals to reflect upon what is happening in the world around her, deciphering and revealing parts of it rather like “peeling an onion.”

Capital Times—a newspaper based in Madison, Wisconsin—praised McCalla, “Take an acoustic guitar, add a vibrant voice and let them both loose on themes from peace to poignant love. Then you’ll have Deidre

McCalla.” Even then, McCalla claims that it is not so much the song, but rather the place where the song leads the listener.

Enjoying attention since the age of six, McCalla grew up knowing that either music or theater was going to be her life. Although she was talented in theater, she felt that to be really good at it, a lot more education would be needed. On the other hand, “with music,” McCalla admits, “you can learn a lot by your self.”

Indeed, McCalla did just that by teaching herself how to play the guitar while in college and releasing her first album at the age of nineteen. McCalla’s newest CD, “Playing for Keeps”, was rated “best of 2003” by Rhythms Magazine.

Although she does not particularly encourage others to follow her path, she does have a strong philosophy for everyone who has dreams regardless of career choice: “with enough drive, it can happen.”

Now after almost twenty years of supporting herself entirely as a singer/songwriter, McCalla still holds no regrets towards her career choice. In fact she loves waking up in the morning and feeling happy. She lives on the idea that when work comes from the heart, there are no regrets.

McCalla’s press release



Award-winning folk/country artist will be at LFC on February 10th.

describes her as, “an engaging performer with a voice that delicately conveys both strength and vulnerability, Deidre’s eclectic blend of folk, rock, country, and pop has touched the hearts and minds of audiences from Maui to Maine, college coffeehouses to Carnegie Hall”

And as busy as her musical profession has kept her, she still

manages to be the co-founder of an organization called Atlanta Family Pride for families with gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgender members.

If you want good, free music, be sure to catch Deidre McCalla at 8:00pm in the coffeehouse on Tuesday, February 10. For more information on McCalla visit www.deidremccalla.com.

Lake Forest Alum Is A Clown

Daniel Kolen
Features Editor

With his money running low, Rob Mermin ’71 hitched-hiked around Denmark looking for a circus to join. As the fifty dollars he started with ran out, he stumbled upon one of the premiere circuses in Europe.

“I went to someone right after the show who was working for the circus and said I was a clown. Even though I had no experience, they said their clown had gotten sick and they needed someone to fill in,” Mermin said. “I stayed in that circus for 3 years, and I learned from some of the world’s top circus artists and got paid for it.”

Not only did Mermin join a variety of circuses soon after graduated Lake Forest College, he became a successful owner of a two million dollar a year business—Circus Smirkus. Mermin came to campus on January 29 and 30 to talk with the Entrepreneur Club and Garrick Players about his business and theatrical experience.

“To start a successful theater company, you must pick a name, pick a logo, and you need a style

to set you apart from the other groups,” Mermin said when he met with Garrick Players.

The *name* was in reference to his mother’s saying, “Circus Shmirkus,” the *logo* captures youthful fantasy, and his *style* features children as the performers.

“Children have a youthful energy, idealism, and project a general image and spirit of performing that comes from the heart,” Mermin said. “I wanted to recreate the myth of running away to join the circus. This myth died in the 60’s and 70’s.” Beginning the business was the hard part, especially since he wanted to start it in the middle of nowhere—the mountains of Vermont.

“Everyone thought I was crazy,” Mermin said. “They told me that everyone lives in New York and I should go there, but I did something different.”

While Mermin’s business now racks in 2 million dollars a year, he began only receiving firewood to keep his house warm and jam for his bread in payment from the farming families who wanted their kids to participate in his circus.

As they were only farm kids



The Smirkos in a high-flying act with very little circus experience, they started at an amateur level. Mermin taught them basic things like how to juggle and tumble. The kids did little things on the side, while he had himself and other adults be the central character.

“The families at the beginning thought it was amazing how kids and adults worked together,” Mermin said.

From there, he got help from famous circus artists from China and Russia to help him train the kids. The Smirkus circus took off from there and is now a world-renowned circus group.

Mermin said, “I was not performing to seek fame and fortune, but to mentor these Smirkos.”

From Vinyl to Comics:

Professor David Park has eclectic interests

Tarah Oliver
Staff Wrter

He may be allergic to anything with fur, but David Park certainly isn’t plagued by vinyl. Park owns over 650 records that are organized in alphabetical order, except for the classical ones.

The shelves holding his beloved albums in the living room of his Ravenswood home are custom-made by Park himself. Park’s musical tastes include both the mainstream and the eclectic. Surf guitarist Dick Dale, early 20th century composer Bela Bartok and Nigerian soul artist Fela Kuti are some of the names found on those shelves.

His 300 comics are also alphabetized, with his favorites being “Eightball” and “ACME Novelty Library.” Park may not have vintage comics past the 1980s, but all of them have sentimental value. The highlight of the last comic book convention he attended was meeting “ACME Novelty Library” creator Chris Ware.

Park, 32, grew up in the sub-

urb of Geneva, IL in a house that served as a ‘speakeasy’ during Prohibition. His parents still live in it and tried to make it a historical landmark...but the town of Geneva rejected the idea.

When he’s not teaching Communications courses at Lake Forest College or writing his book on Pop Psychology, he makes time for two new movies a week, especially if they’re from Japanese filmmaker Shohei Imamura.

He never misses his Saturday ritual of playing basketball with twelve friends. They take over the gym at Eckhart Park on Chicago’s north side from noon to 2pm. “I play with a bunch of geeks, like myself,” says Park.

Professor Park recieved his undergraduated degree at Norhtwestern University and recieved his graduate degrees at the University of Pennsylvania. He has authored and co-authored articles on topics ranging from “Interpersonal Effects in Computer-Mediated Interaction” to others assessing the New York Times’ coverage of the Middle East. He has been invited to talk on nearly ten occasions.

This Side of Chicago:

Culture Events

Lydia Uhler
Senior Staff Writer

From plays to car shows to looking at the newest photos of Mars, This Side of Chicago packs an informative punch into the week.

18th Annual Young Playwrights Festival Pegasus Players
1145 W. Wilson Ave.

At this annual even you can see four one-act plays chosen from over 650 entries by area high school students. These plays run from Feb. 5-Feb. 29. Shows are on Sun at 3 pm, Fri and Sat at 8 pm. Tickets are \$12. Call the box office for more info at 773-878-9761.

2004 Chicago Auto Show
McCormick Place
2301 S. Lake Shore Drive

This is the nation’s largest auto show featuring new model cars, trucks, race cars, concept cars, antique and collectors cars, and more. This show runs from Feb. 6-Feb. 15 from 10 am to 10pm. Prices range from \$5-\$10. Visit www.mccormickplace.com.

Bronzeville: Black Chicago in Pictures, 1941-1943
DuSable Museum of African-American History
740 E. 56th Pl.

There are more than 120 images at this exhibit. They reflect Chicago’s South Side during the years of 1941-1943. This collection is from the International Center of Photography in New York City. This show runs through Feb. 29. The show is free with general admission, \$1-\$3. Visit www.dusablemuseum.org for more details.

Search for Alien Worlds
Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum
1300 S. Lake Shore Drive

A Sky Theater show narrated by Aaron Freeman, which poses the question: Are we alone in the universe? This show also includes an interview with “planet hunter” Geoff Marcy. The cost is \$13. Visit their website at www.adlerplanetarium.org

Sex in the Suburbs/The Baritones
The Noble Fool Theater
16 W. Randolph St.

The long-running improv spoof of HBO’s “The Sopranos” is paired with an improvised parody of “Sex in the City.” Prices are \$25 call the box office at 312-726-1156 for tickets.

Former Film Major at the Movies:

While “Big Fish” is strong on characters, it lacks the visual appeal of Burton’s earlier works



Mary Huxhold
Film Critic

I have a confession to make to all of my fellow LFC students. I, Mary Elizabeth Francis Huxhold, love Tim Burton. I own all of his films, including “Mars Attacks” and “Planet of the Apes.” I dream about his famous images of trees every night when I go to sleep, hugging my pillow tight and dancing for joy in filmmaker heaven. I even have “Nightmare Before Christmas” underwear and novelty mugs.

So you can all understand the horror that came over me when I realized that Mr. Burton is not the greatest director. This painful revelation came to me as I left Showplace 8 after seeing “Big Fish.” Something wasn’t right. In fact, something was down right fishy. How could my Timmy do this to me? I began to catalog the movie in my head. What went wrong?

The story, based on Daniel Wallace’s novel Big Fish: A Novel of Mythic Proportions, is absolutely superb. This suburban fairy tale follows the soon to be father William Bloom (Billy Crudup) on his quest to know his own father, Edward, before his child is born and his father dies.

There’s just one problem. Edward Bloom (Albert Finney, Ewan McGregor) seems to have no real past or present. He lives in a fantasy world, nothing more than a washed up liar, or so William thinks. As William reexamines his father’s tall tales, he begins to see that he’s known his father all along.

Although this growing relationship proves one of the most touching points of the story, that is not what makes it great and original. The deeper question is much more intriguing, as if its ripped right from the pages of a philosopher’s notebook.

The story itself reveals layer after layer of complexity. What is reality and what is truth? Is it really so horrible to twist life into something beautiful and extraordinary? Isn’t reality what you make it? It certainly is to Edward; his tales are not tales to him, they are fact. Although these extravagant myths of mermaids, witches, giants and werewolves (look for a fantastic performance from Danny Devito) seem crazy to us at first, by the end of the film, we begin to see that they just might be true.

Unfortunately, despite a wonderful story as a base, held up on the shoulders of well-played characters, Burton’s filmmaking proves very un-Burton

like and sloppy, a surprise when we remember that his gift lies in the telling of urban fairy tales such as “Edward Scissorhands” and “Beetlejuice.”

However, Burton’s films are, in general, never arranged very concisely, his transitions from scene to scene usually falling victim. This is especially apparent in “Big Fish.” Scenes are more thrown together than they planned out, giving the film an unintended jumbled feeling.

It doesn’t reflect Edward’s well-told stories. The “fairy tale” sequences are in themselves well done, as are those shot in “real life,” but there is nothing that truly connects them to one another, no true sense of continuity holding the film together. The filmmakers seemed to rush to get to the “fun” parts of the film, forgetting to create a solid foundation from which to visualize the story.

However, when watching Burton’s earlier films, this problem can easily be forgotten when one just concentrates on the beauty of the images on screen. Mr. Burton, who is influenced by early German Expressionist filmmakers (the movement that gave birth to our modern day horror films and relied heavily on strange atmosphere and art production), has proven on

countless occasions that he is a cinematic genius when it comes to creating this mood and feeling, his images beautiful yet unsettling at the same time, his cinematography and art production are some of the most creative of his generation which has always been the main reason for watching his films. It is this lack of Burton-esque perspective and style that makes “Big Fish” a flop.

Although the characters themselves prove grotesque and strange, Burton adds few of his touches to their surrounding world and then only subtly. This not only exposes the problems of pacing within the film, but also makes a Burton lover wonder why he didn’t choose to display his talent for the visual unreal in this most fantastical of stories—the place that it belongs.

However, by the end of the film, the story itself holds up, proving its power in spite of the film’s obvious flaws. When you leave the theater you truly remember what it feels like to be a little kid and view the world through the curtain of fantasy, and you start wondering about what truth is in your own life. It’s a fantastic feeling. I will always love you Tim, but I think I there’s a new man in my life: Daniel Wallace, the novelist.

■ SHORT REVIEWS

Janet Jackson’s Exposé

Daniel Kolen
Features Editor

Dear Janet Jackson’s exposed nipple:

While everyone has taken every possible angle on the whole bare breast incident at the Super Bowl Half Time Show, I’d like to thank you and Justin Timberlake for livening up a dead period of 30 minutes in the midst of a dead Super Bowl. Not only were the offenses for both teams bad, but so were the commercials. Your nipple provided the controversy we needed to have a successful Super Bowl.

While some criticize you as not being family oriented, I’d have to strongly disagree with that claim. Since it’s from the breast where babies have their first meal. Therefore, if all of humanity at one time rested on a female’s nipple, there should be no problem in its revelation at the Super Bowl.

In a historical context, the film Titanic received a PG-13 rating for revealing one breast – among other things like profani-

ty, violence, and a terribly long death sequence where Kate Winslet says “never let go, Jack” about a thousand times. The PG-13 rule is never enforced and any person – no matter how old – can waltz into a PG-13 movie and risk seeing a female’s nipple. On the other hand, the whole female kit-and-kaboodle is reserved to rated R films and this must never be allowed at the Super Bowl.

While there is nothing wrong with a female’s nipple being broadcast around the country, there is a problem that Justin Timberlake as the one who did the exposing.

Janet Jackson is sooooo much better than Justin Timberlake. And while she is related to the Notorious CDM (Child Dangler and Molester), she is an artist unlike the squealing musak Timberlake produces. Perhaps next time, Janet Jackson should remove her top herself to up her dignity and lower the shock value.

I have two questions in closing: is this a revolution in American values? Will more nipples be bared in the future?

Kelis Deserves Grammy

Tarah Oliver
Staff Writer

2003 Grammy award nominee Kelis (pronounced kuh-LEESE) is getting attention for her new album “Tasty,” as she is nominated for her single “Milkshake.”

While “Tasty” (Arista Records/ Star Trak) is her second album released in the U.S, she has actually produced three albums as her second album, “Wanderland” was never released in the America. Kelis, 24, debuted in 1999 with “Kaleidoscope.”

‘Tasty’ does not focus on Kelis’ vocal ability. Instead it showcases the work of heavy-weight R&B producers including the Neptunes, P. Diddy, Timbaland, and Raphael Saadiq. Kelis’ voice is simple with a slight rasp. She does not engage in diva-like vocal gymnastics or excessive ornamentation. Her voice is almost a throwback to 80’s British dance-pop/R&B stars like Neneh Cherry. It’s refreshing to hear such a voice again.

The Harlem native has co-writing credit on most of the tracks for ‘Tasty.’ And while her newest album was labled to have “explicit lyrics,” she avoids being too sexually explicit and uses humor to mask innuendo. “My milkshake brings all the boys in the yard/And they’re like, It’s better than yours/Damn right, it’s better than yours/I can teach you, but I have to charge”...hook listeners to her first single.

The most overtly sexual song on the album is “In Public” where she’s joined by fiancé Nas. Other notable tracks include R&B slow Jam “Glow” with Raphael Saadiq and “Millionaire” featuring Outkast’s Andre 3000.

Kelis is nominated for “Best Urban/Alternative Performance” for the 46th Annual Grammy Awards on this coming Sunday, February 8th.

Other Grammy nominees for best “Urban/Alternative Performance” are: Erykah Badu for “Danger,” Outkast for “Hey Ya,” Musiq for “Forthenight,” and Les Nubians for “J’veux D’la Musique.” India Arie won last year for “Little Things.”

■ Editorial

CEC: Improving Campus Life

The Stentor staff would like to extend our gratitude to Campus Entertainment Committee (CEC) for a job well done this year. By giving Lake Forest College students the opportunity to go to events such as Cubs games, critically acclaimed musicals like “The Lion King,” and concerts in the city, CEC is making great strides to incorporate Chicago into the campus life.

We realize CEC must balance the interest in the events with the number of trips into the city, but we feel more events can always be planned. There will always be the need to leave campus, and the more college-sponsored events into Chicago would make our bond to the city stronger.

On to another note, the films and musical events CEC has brought to campus have been excellent. From jam-packed crowds for “Lost in Translation,” to bringing critically acclaimed artists like Comedian Shang, CEC has done an effective job of bringing culture and fun entertainment to Lake Forest’s campus.

As the suburb of Lake Forest closes at 6 pm, it is nearly impossible to find entertainment within a ten-minute walk of campus without taking the Metra. We would like to urge CEC to continue searching for the diverse group of musicians and finding other entertainment on campus to make it easier to have a good time without going into the city.

While there is still room for improvement, CEC has far exceeded the editorial staff’s expectations this year. Directly to CEC: this is more than a thank you letter; this is the unanimous opinion from the editorial staff of the Stentor. We feel that the progress you are making as one of the strongest campus organizations should be commended and rewarded. Good job and keep up the good work!

Some Thoughts On The Democrats

James Kersten
Columnist

By the time this column is finished, John Kerry will have already won the New Hampshire Primary. And depending on the time it takes to print and distribute, he will have won the bulk of the state primaries on the first “Super Tuesday.” All of this leads to one question: Where is Howard Dean?

Long thought to be the definite Democratic candidate, Howard Dean, the man who has raised the most money, gathered the most volunteers, and gained the most media spotlight has faded fast. Today, some polls in South Carolina even show Al Sharpton, the jester of the “big tent” circus, placing higher than Dean.

Many of the pundits in the media attribute this to some sort of “buyer’s remorse”; others explain that delectability is the most important characteristic in a candidate. If this is truly the case, why have they decided upon Kerry? One thing that we on the right love to do is correlate these Democratic candidates to their

predecessors. Dean has been called George McGovern quite a bit in the media blitz than followed his loss in Iowa. If Howard Dean is the next George McGovern, then John Kerry is the next Michael Dukakis. Either way, a loser.

Things are not over for Dean; he seems to be polling rather well on the West Coast, especially in California, the most important Primary State. But his numbers there will fall if he does not win in the meantime, for nobody wants to vote for a loser.

Presidential races are mostly a question of geography. The South is heavily Republican, and the Northeast is heavily Democratic. So picking a liberal from New England doesn’t really get the Democrats anything that they didn’t already have. But herein lies the rub; John Edwards and Wesley Clark are from the South and they still cannot win. Both Clark and Edwards have accepted federal matching funds, and will be restrained by spending limits that their opponent George W. Bush will not. So in a Bush vs. Clark or Bush vs. Edwards scenario, Bush could just outspend them.

Bush has made some pretty bold moves into New England, once thought to be hostile ground to Republican candidates. The Republican National Convention will be held in New York, a city with a Republican Mayor and a state with a Republican Governor. Bush’s polling numbers have improved greatly there since the last election. Look for the rising star in the party, Rudy Giuliani, to play some role.

The Democrats’ choice of Boston as the location of their Convention really gains them nothing; it’s a heavily Democratic city, though this time a Republican is in the Governor’s Mansion. Their previous choice of Los Angeles also wouldn’t work this time, as California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, a Republican, would likely draw a bigger crowd.

The President is not without problems of his own. His partial-amnesty program has the ability to split the party along ideological lines, but it is still too early to tell.

Read the Stentor each week for continued coverage and analysis of the Democratic primary elections.

The Stentor: ESTABLISHED 1886: PUBLISHED WEEKLY

LETTERS POLICY

The Stentor is a forum for the Lake Forest College Community. Letters to the Editor are encouraged; submissions will be accepted up to Saturday by 6 p.m. Letters longer than 400 words may be condensed. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification. Names may be withheld only at the discretion of the editorial board in cases where there is a concern for personal safety or unnecessary breach of confidentiality. The Stentor reserves the right to edit all submissions for publication.

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The Lake Forest College Stentor is a student publication. The opinions expressed in the Stentor do not necessarily reflect those of the students, administration, faculty, or staff of Lake Forest College.

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■ Cars

Volkswagons: Lemons or Lemonade?



Daniel Berry
Staff Writer

The year was 1999 and I had finally scrounged together the \$24 thousand it would take to buy a new Volkswagen Passat GLS wagon. The moment I laid my eyes on that beautiful piece of machinery, I was in love. It had a turbo four-cylinder engine, a five-speed manual, leather seats, and all the bells and whistles you’d expect in a much more expensive luxury vehicle. For a month I had a ball, but then the nightmare began.

Thirty-one days after I drove off the showroom floor, the brakes started grinding and squealing. Immediately, I brought it back to the dealer where I was shown an “internal document” from VW America to all of its dealers saying that brake squealing in Passats was to be expected and was not fixable. The document blamed the type of brake pads used for the sound emanating into the passenger compartment. With no remedy in sight, I walked out of the service area, confused and frustrated. For the next six months, I had to deal with the grinds and whines every time I hit the brakes.

Then I experienced another problem. This one revealed the quality, or lack thereof, of the interior. The stitching on the leather seats began to fray, and then the seams split wide open. Not too long after that, the headliner fell down. Both of these were fixed free of charge, but I had to say goodbye to my car for a few days (and there were no loaners available at the time). According to the dealer, my car was falling apart because of the Arizona heat. If that were true, which it can’t be, then why would they sell Volkswagens in the hot states?

They wouldn’t.

Once the interior was fixed, the electrical gremlins moved in. I first noticed it when I would turn the car off. By the time I had come back and turned it over, the stereo would be playing only in the rear speakers. I would have to turn the stereo off and back on again to get all of the speakers to work. The second electrical problem I noticed was the lack of interior light when the switch was turned to On. Only after I had turned the car off and walked away, would the lights come on. Finally, the blue backlight for the gauges stopped working. By this time, I was peeved beyond belief, but all the problems were fixed under warranty.

The last straw came at roughly 13 thousand miles and 7 months of ownership. I brought the car in for service, again, and was told that the engine bearings were warped and would have to be replaced. This repair, however, was not covered under warranty because, according to the dealership, the only way this could have occurred was with excessive acceleration on a constant basis. Now, the truth is that I don’t beat up on my own car, only those I test; therefore, their answer is completely unbelievable. Obviously, I got rid of the POS before it started to lose all value but I researched the Arizona Lemon Law before doing so.

In Arizona, as in many states, a vehicle must incur the same problem three times consecutively without any help from dealer repairs to be considered a lemon. My car, though, had multiple problems in a row and could not fit the criteria of a lemon. In the laws eyes, I was stuck with this piece of **** from Volkswagen. I gladly got rid of it for a Nissan.

“Jetta” continued on Page 6



Dear Dr. Pat

Dear Dr. Pat,

Ever since I broke up with my girlfriend, she's been writing me emails and hanging around outside my apartment. She says she wants "answers", but I don't know what to tell her. Things just didn't work out; I didn't feel the same way about her anymore. How can I get her to understand this and stop emailing me all the time? Should I just block her emails and ignore her? I feel so guilty! How do I get over "break up guilt"?

-Stalked on South

Dear Stalked,

Breaking up is hard to do! I suggest one more try in telling your ex how you feel ("I don't feel the same way about you any more," "I need more space in my life right now," etc., etc.). Along with that, I suggest you block your emails and call the police if she really begins to harass you.

Dear Dr Pat,

My best friend and I both had a crush on the same girl. We've been fighting over her for the past 2 months, and nothing is getting solved. Now, we just don't talk anymore, the girl has already transferred, and I miss my friend. What can I do to bridge this gap?

Please note: I'd like to do this while maintaining my masculinity and not seeming weird.

- Anonymous

Dear Macho Man,

It seems like you have lost a lot....the girl, a best friend. Call your guy friend and ask if he'd want to do something with you, something fairly neutral that you both enjoy. If he says no, perhaps he needs more time to resolve the problem for himself. If yes, communicate that you want his friendship, that it's important to you, that you miss hanging out with him. Start over.

Dear Dr. Pat is written by Pat Pohl, assistant director of the LFC Counseling Center, located in Hotchkiss Hall. Do you have a question for Pat Pohl? Email it to Opinions@lfc.edu or send it through campus mail to mailbox A3, attn: Opinions. All submissions remain anonymous.

Disclaimer: Advice offered in this column is not meant to substitute a professional evaluation. To schedule an appointment, contact the Counseling Center at ex. 5240.

That's The Gist!

Pink: The Official Color Of The Revolution



I love the color pink! It's a totally radical color that doesn't get nearly enough attention. I have this sneaking suspicion that people are afraid to wear the color, but we'll get to that later.

My enthralling obsession with the color pink sprouted last spring, when

I won this studded-belt on eBay. It was cheap and pink and the mere thought of strutting around with this amazing pink belt made me want to do cartwheels of exuberance!

When I found out the hard way that my belt was made of cheap vinyl, it was too late. I was already smitten for the subtle mixture of red and white pigments. Soon enough, I bought this awesome pink bracelet and, as I type this, it is hugging my arm with all the tender expression that one would expect from a piece of jewelry.

Okay, time for a break. What do you think about a boy wearing pink?

At my lunch monitor gig, I get funny looks from the students all the time. At first glance, I'm not what one would consider "lunch mom material," but if you give me a chance, I can be a really good role model.

...except for all the pink. That's the kind of stuff that makes parents pace back and forth in agony.

Last week, one of the third grade girls couldn't contain herself any longer. "Why do you wear that pink bracelet?" I gave her the honest answer: I like the color pink. But then, she proceeded to drop a bomb on me:

"But boys can't wear pink! Pink is a girl's color!"

Oh man. Her response hit me like a ton of masculine-colored bricks. I had forgotten that colors had been assigned to a specific gender. Big mistake.

So, being the master of conversation that I am, I began a tactful argument with her. Momentarily, I forgot that she was a third grader. I started questioning her assumptions, asking stuff like "Why is pink only a girl's color? Why can't boys wear pink?" and, being only nine years old, or something, her confident response was a simple "Because!"

Scared of losing to a third-grader, I guided my artillery to the front line. "Okay," I smirked, "then what's a boy's color?" Her response was every color—blue, red, yellow, green, orange, vermilion, mocha—EXCEPT pink. So how come the boys get all the colors but the girls just get smelly ol' pink?

In all honesty, I wasn't too concerned about winning this fight. I've found you can't argue with a third-grade girl about the color pink. It's like arguing with a penguin about Antarctica; you just look stupid doing it. No, no, no. I had bigger flightless birds to fry.

The older students, however, didn't think that pink is a girl's color. They've taken their assumptions a step forward. According to these seventh and eighth-graders, wearing the color pink makes me gay. It hit me like a sock full of heterosexual-colored oranges. I had forgotten that colors also had a sexual preference. Bigger mistake.

You know, I felt the same way when I was a little shaver, but now that I am all grown up, I wonder where ideas like this come from. I don't think that youngsters are the only ones with these chromatic assumptions either; I'm sure that pink may dictate the decisions of people that are college age and above. "Is this too feminine, too gay?"

I think, and hope, that you might have the gist. I absolutely hate redundancy, but I think we need to challenge these kinds of assumptions about our culture. Why should we set limitations on our lives or, better yet, why should a nine-year-old? I don't think it's fair for her to live her pre-adolescent life in a pretty pink straightjacket. So, when you see me wearing my pink bracelet and what is left of my cool pink belt, you can consider it my way of challenging our culture's constructions. But don't be fooled; it's just a facade. I just really love the color pink! Probably a little too much.

“Volkswagons” continued from page 5

As a side note, shortly after I said goodbye to my problematic vehicle, I received a document (from a close friend at VW of America) that the VIN number for my car matched a report of a vehicle that had been struck in the front-end while at the factory. My friend supposes that the vehicle was fixed and sold off to me, as new. It's a shame I didn't have that piece of paper before I got rid of my car because I would have had quite a lawsuit. On the bright side, however, I now knew why the hood seams never matched the front fender's seams. From that day on, though, I swore off all VW products- VW, Audi, Porsche, Bentley, etc.

It had been approximately 48 months since I last thought of VW in a good light. In that time, though, I had shared my story with many prospective Volkswagen shoppers/buyers. Most decided that a VW was not in their future and instead bought Japanese import models or BMWs. Recently, someone came to me and asked that I check out and test a Jetta. I wasn't psyched about it but did it anyway, for the pleasure of my few readers.

The Jetta I chose to test

was a platinum gray GLS model. It was equipped with a manual transmission and all the standard creature comforts. With the turbo and stick shift, this Jetta was a peppy little piece of metal. With the accelerator floored on the highway, there was little, if any, turbo whine filtering into the cabin. In fact, the cabin was so isolated from engine and road noise that I thought I was driving a far more expensive vehicle. It would appear that Volkswagen has put some money into the firewall and sound deadening materials.

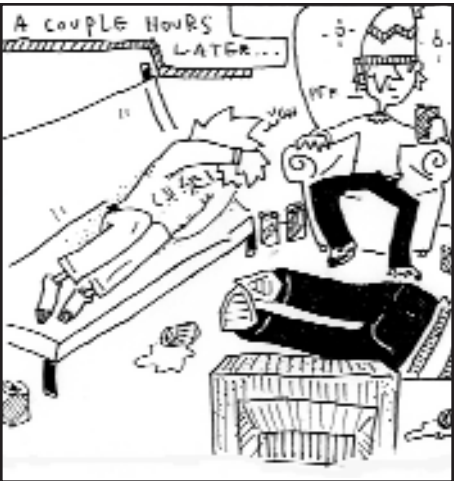
There were two things I noticed with this car, right off the bat. First, the engine's turbo pulls strong after you give it a little revving, and two, it's actually a comfortably sporty ride. On the highway's straight-aways, this car had no problem maintaining a healthy 100 mph. Moreover, I found it to be the most fun from 70 to 100 as it pulled hardest during this time.

To test the suspension, I raced it through the switchbacks of “the ravine” on Sheridan Road. To my delight, it cornered relatively flat with little body roll. I would bet that the optional sport suspension and 17-inch wheels would

make this vehicle even better (it's only \$800).

Volkswagen was not so successful in its execution of the Jetta's brakes, however. There were several occasions when I was going far over the speed limit and had to stop quickly but the brakes felt as if they were slipping. Slippage causes longer braking distances and this is exactly what I encountered. Now it may have been that the test car had faulty brakes, but if you're planning on buying a Jetta it would behoove you to check the brakes before you leave the dealer's lot.

When I got behind the wheel of the Jetta, I expected the worst. What I got, though, was a pleasant surprise—it was actually fun to drive. For a little over \$ 22,000 (with the sport suspension and destination) you get a lively engine and a quiet interior, both of which feel like they're from another pricier vehicle. Would I buy another VW or this Jetta? No. Would a Jetta be a good car to buy? From where I sit, if you're willing to take a chance on the reliability of it, a Jetta offers a comparable value to other cars in its class and would make a good addition to any family.



Jerry By Jake Bonham & Reilly Shwab

MEN'S HOCKEY

Men's Hockey Victorious, Defeats Eau Claire and Trounces UW- Stevens Point

Tony Bertuca
Sports Editor

The men's hockey team seemed to be gearing up for the playoffs as they soundly defeated their opponents Eau Claire and Stevens Point this weekend. The Forester's, who started the week ranked eighth in the nation, also defeated UW-Eau Claire last Friday 3-0, giving Lake Forest a 15-4-2 record overall with a 5-4-1 record in the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association.

With just three games left in the regular season, the Forester's have moved up to fourth in the league.

UW-Eau Claire Jan. 30

The Forester's got the weekend off to a strong start after they shutout Eau Claire last Friday 3-0.

Lake Forest struck quickly at the beginning of the first period with junior forward Robin Charest scoring a goal, assisted

by sophomores Tyler Steen and Chris Rook. The goal put the Forester's up 1-0 for the remain-



Photo Courtesy of LFC Athletics

Tyler Canal

der of the period. Lake Forest took only 10 shots to Eau Claire's 19, but Forester goalkeeper Joel Cameron finished the period with as many saves.

The second period was scoreless but intensely played with 12 penalties recorded. The Forester's took 16 shots to Eau

Claire's 8, and Cameron remained solid in the net.

Lake Forest's third and final goal was scored at the very end of the third period by freshman Tyler Canal who was unassisted.

Joel Cameron finished the game with 35 saves to ensure a Forester shutout of 3-0.

UW-Stevens Point Jan. 31

On Saturday the Forester's registered a major victory, trouncing UW-Stevens Point 5-1.

The Forester's drew first blood towards the end of the first period with a goal from freshman Tyler Canal, assisted by freshmen Cam Doull and Matt Forsyth. Little did the opposition know that this would only be the beginning of a Forester offensive barrage that would end with five consecutive goals.

At 6:57 into the second period, Lake Forest struck again, this time with a goal from junior Robin Charest, assisted by

freshman Matt Forsyth and sophomore Tyler Steen.

Four minutes later, the Forester's slapped in a goal scored by senior Bryan O'Connor, assisted by junior Dave Williams and Senior defenseman Rob Bilcox.

Robin Charest would score



Photo Courtesy of LFC Athletics

RobinCharest

his second goal of the night at the end of the second period with assists from Rob Bilcox

and junior Ryan Scapinello. At the period's end, the Foresters were leading Stevens Point 4-0.

Lake Forest would score a fifth and final time to mark the end to a streak of five consecutive goals after junior Rob Nerland snuck a goal past Stevens Point's goalkeeper Ryan Scott. Nerland was assisted by Rob Bilcox and Ryan Scapinello. His goal made the score 5-0.

UW-Stevens did manage to avoid an embarrassing shutout, scoring their first goal approximately three minutes after the Forester's recorded their fifth. Junior goalkeeper Joel Cameron ended the game with 29 saves, and the Forester's defeated UW-Stevens Point 5-1.

Lake Forest only has three regulation games left before post-season play begins. They start their march toward the playoffs on Feb.7 with a long awaited rematch against the highly ranked UW-River Falls.

MEN'S HOCKEY COACH

Coach Fritz Leads Team To Victory Again



Fritz, Continued From Page 1

Tony Bertuca
Sports Editor

Photo Courtesy of LFC Athletics

Coach Tony Fritz, who has been the head men's hockey coach since 1978 (26 seasons with the Foresters), has reached 300 victories after the Forester's

trounced UW- Stevens Point 5-1 last Saturday.

Fritz has compiled a very impressive record since he began at Lake Forest College, and his accolades are numerous.

According to the athletic department, prior to Fritz's coaching career at Lake Forest, he was a member of the Toronto Maple Leafs organization as a player in the Ontario Junior Hockey Association. He was considered by scouts to be one of the top five NHL prospects in Canada before an eye injury during the Memorial Cup Playoffs ended his career.

Shortly afterwards, Fritz

began coaching at the high school level at University School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. While there, Fritz earned both his Bachelor and Master's degrees in Education from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. As a coach, he turned the University School in Milwaukee into a winning program, amassing an overall record of 159-90-7.

Fritz is now in the midst of his fifth decade of coaching, finishing his 600th game at Lake Forest College in Feb. 2002.

He is the all-time winningest hockey coach at Lake Forest, having guided the Foresters to 13 or more victories 11 times and been a

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Fri., Feb. 6 @ UW-Stout
Sat., Feb. 7 @ UW-River Falls
Fri., Feb. 13 vs. St. Scholastica
Sat., Feb. 14 vs. UW- Superior @ 2 p.m.

All games are at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

All Men's Lake Forest CollegeHockey games can be heard on 88.9 WLFC or at www.lfcradio.com.



The Stentor is looking for someone who is interested in covering women's hockey. If you are interested, please contact the Sports Editor at sports@lfc.edu.

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part of the two most successful three-year runs ever at Lake Forest.

Fritz’s hockey teams have qualified for the national playoffs 16 of the last 23 season, including the quarterfinals in 1991. He has coached the Forester’s to 14 or more victories in a season a total of ten times.

Coach Fritz is also the Dean of all the active coaches in the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association. According to the athletic department, Fritz has won more games at Lake Forest College than six of the other seven NCHA coaches have even coached at their school.

A little known fact about Fritz is that he is also the winningist men’s soccer coach in Lake Forest history, concluding his career in 1993 after he guided the Foresters to eight Midwest Conference Championships in sixteen seasons. His soccer victories combined with his hockey triumphs give Fritz an overall record of 430-380-50 at Lake Forest.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Men's Basketball Barnburners:
Klos' Three Pointer Lifts
Foresters Over St. Norbert

Tony Bertuca
Sports Editor

Last weekend the Forester men's basketball team won two major games in their usual barn burning fashion, defeating St. Norbert 53-50 and Beloit College 59-58. Each game was well played and won in the final moments. The team now moves to 9-8 for the season.

St. Norbert 56-53
During the St. Norbert game, the Foresters were led by Greg Klos who scored a total of 18 points, and was followed by Eric McDonald who scored 15 points, forced two turnovers, and went 7 for 9 from the free throw line. Franklyn Beckford was not far behind with 11 points and 8 rebounds

Each team was neck-and-neck all the way, the Foresters being unable to distance themselves from the Green Knights until the game's final seconds.

With the scored tied at 53-53 and three seconds left in the

game, Greg Klos hit a three pointer to win it for Lake Forest 56-53.

Beloit 59-58
During Saturday's game against Beloit, Lake Forest was led by Eric McDonald who scored an impressive 21 points and pulled down 8 rebounds. He was followed by Franklyn Beckford who had 12 points and five rebounds and went 4 for 5 from the free throw line.

In another close victory, the Foresters still had difficulty distancing themselves form their opponents who refused to let up. By the end of the game, the Foresters had compiled a small lead (59-53) and managed to hold it until the closing seconds of the game when Beloit rallied back, scoring their 58th point at the buzzer, and falling victim to the old adage, "too little to late." The Foresters won 59-58.

The victory put the Foresters at 9-8 on the season and will continue their drive toward a conference championship on Feb. 7 against Carroll College.

ATHLETE OF WEEK

Swimmer Wins Three
Events to Defeat Lawrence

Sophomore swimmer Marie Pool was named Forester Athlete of the Week by the athletic department after her outstanding performance in a dual meet at Lawrence University (Jan. 24). Pool's effort helped the Forester's beat the Vikings for a 136-87 victory.

The appropriately named sophomore claimed victory in all three events in which she competed: 400-yard Medley Relay, 200-Freestyle, and 100-Breastroke.

In the 400-yard Medley Relay, Pool anchored her team, winning in 4:19.33.

Pool also won the 200-Freestyle in 2:03.67 and the 100-yard Breaststroke in 1:16.21.

It was Pool's first per-



Photo courtesy of: www.lfc.edu/athletics

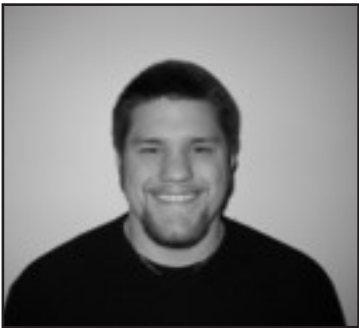
Marie Pool

formance on the 200-Freestyle this year, and she garnered the team's best time so far this season. She also has the third fastest time in the Midwestern Conference.



SPORTS COLUMN

Joltin' Joe It's That Time of Year...



Joe Meixell
Sports Columnist

Well, here we are again. With the Super Bowl decided and three weeks before pitchers and catchers report to Spring Training, we have officially reached the doldrums of the sporting world. The month of February is assuredly the least interesting span of time in the calendar year, with only two sports in season and no playoffs in sight.

Sure, you might argue that the basketball and hockey seasons can see you through the rough times until they reach their playoffs. However, I find no rescue there. Consider this: in the current NHL and NBA playoff formats, the top 16 teams make the playoffs. With 30 teams in the NHL and 29 in basketball, that's a whopping 65 percent of the teams in the league! If over half of your competition qualifies for the postseason, it must not be too special. In fact, if the NCAA Division III football playoffs operated in the same fashion, the playoff bracket would encompass 151 teams.

The lack of privilege associated with a playoff spot serves to make the regular season a B-O-R-E. Ooh, this is such a big game, if the Lakers lose tonight then their chance of playoff contention drops by... well, it doesn't drop at all. They only need to win every other game to make the postseason! If the NBA regular season ended on Jan. 30, three teams with a win-

ning percentage BELOW .500 (Toronto, Boston and New York) would make the Eastern Conference playoffs! Three teams! Out of EIGHT!!! We're not exactly looking at a high level of competition.

Having a four-round playoff system is not a good idea, and making the first round a best-of-seven is even worse. Making each playoff series last over a week serves only to prolong the postseason, and does little to increase competitiveness. It's wonderful that the #8 Anaheim Mighty Ducks swept the powerhouse Red Wings in Round One and went on to win the Stanley Cup, but the flip side is the #8 New York Islanders (35-34-11-2) being outscored 13-7 in a 4-1 series loss to Ottawa (52-21-8-1). I'm sure it would be a terrible loss if the Islanders never made the playoffs.

The problem here is that the expanded playoff system allows too much room for the underdog. When young boys and girls are playing Little League for the city championship, it's fine for everyone who makes the postseason to get a trophy, but this is the big leagues. These men are earning millions of dollars to take their team to the top, and it just doesn't make sense that over half of them earn the honor of a play-off spot. The entire point of the playoff system is its exclusivity.

Imagine the ensuing debacle if baseball expanded to a sixteen-team format. Instead of the Red Sox's dramatic best-of-five nail-biter over the A's for the chance to play the Yankees, we would have had the Yankees vs. KC, Boston vs. Chicago, Seattle vs. Minnesota and Oakland vs. Toronto in the American League Quarterfinals. This does not exactly convey the type of suspense and drama that we associate with the baseball postsea-

son. If this switch was made, we could possibly have Arizona (84-78) versus Kansas City (83-79) in the World Series, and I know that we don't want that.

The great thing about baseball and football is their respective postseasons. The Super Bowl and the World Series are the two most exciting events in the sporting world, and with good reason. It takes a huge effort over the course of the entire season for a team in MLB or the NFL to even qualify for the postseason, which only makes the playoffs that much greater.

The NFL season is exciting from the first kickoff of Week One through the final whistle of Week Seventeen, and that excitement stems from the impact that each game has on the postseason. When the Bears square off against the Packers or Vikings in the first few weeks of the season, every fan knows that the outcome of those games will set the tone for the rest of the campaign (not that it matters for the Bears, but the Packers still have a shot).

Baseball has an eight-team playoff; football pits twelve head-to-head. It would serve the other major sports well if they would follow suit - it makes for a more exciting play-off and adds drama to each contest during the regular season. While it means lost revenue from playoff games, the increase in competition would make up for that quite easily.

For now, I'm just whiling away the hours in front of my computer, researching the upcoming fantasy drafts and counting the days until baseball begins and we can put this horrible time behind us once more. We're lucky to have the Super Bowl in February, because that and Valentine's Day are the only things to love about this month.

"Chicago Ambassadors" Presents...
February 2004 Chicago Excursion Schedule

5th: Jose' Merce', The Park West Theater

16th: Guitarist, Paco de Lucia @Chicago Symphony Center

21st: "The Belle of Amherst," The City Lit Theater Company

27th: AmericanExpressionism: Art and Social Change. 1920's -1950's,"Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art and Pick